

**Amendments to the Claims**

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The device as set forth in claim 42 15, further comprising a storage unit for storing ~~at least one of~~ (i) a geometric structure of the joint and/or (ii) reference values for determining the aperture angle.

14. (currently amended) The device as set forth in claim 42 15, further comprising a data output device for outputting the ascertained aperture angle.

15. (currently amended) ~~The A device as set forth in claim 12, further comprising~~ for determining an aperture angle of a joint, said device comprising:  
a robot and a force measuring device for applying defined forces in defined directions onto the joint;  
a detection device for detecting (i) positions of joint components and/or (ii) positions of structures connected to or to be connected to the joint; and  
a computational unit for ascertaining the aperture angle of the joint based on the detected positions.

16. (new) The device as set forth in claim 15, wherein the force measuring device automatically displays the applied force.

17. (new) A device for determining an aperture angle of a joint, the device comprising:  
a force applying device that applies defined forces in defined directions to the joint and/or to structures connected to or to be connected to the joint;  
a force measuring device that measures forces applied to the joint and/or to the structures connected to or to be connected to the joint;  
a detection device that detects positions of joint components and/or positions of structures connected to or to be connected to the joint; and

a computational unit in data communications with the force applying device, the force measuring device and the detection device, the computational unit ascertaining the aperture angle of the joint based on the detected positions.

18. (new) The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the force applying device comprises a robot.

19. (new) The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the force applying device comprises a manually-operable force applying device.

20. (new) The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the detection device detects how far a joint or structure connected to the joint moves when a particular force is applied.

21. (new) The device as set forth in claim 17, further comprising reference markers attached to the joint and/or the structures connected to or to be connected to the joint, wherein the detection device detects positions of the reference markers.

22. (new) The device as set forth in claim 21, wherein the computational unit registers the joint and/or the structures connected to or to be connected to the joint based on the detected positions of the reference markers.

23. (new) The device as set forth in claim 17, further comprising a display, wherein the computational device provides a visual representation of the ascertained aperture angle for viewing on the display.